(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is its justification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti adopted Government of India Order No. F. 14(3)/E. Coord.(1)/99 dated 8th October, 1999 and 12th October, 1999 regarding payment of ad-hoc bonus. As per these orders, bonus is payable to Central Government employees in Groups 'C' and 'D' and all non-gazetted employees in Group 'B'. Both these organisations are registered societies and there is no classification of the posts as gazetted and non-gazetted. The Ministry of HRD in consultation with the Ministry of Finance clarified vide letter No. F. 5-16/98-UT. 1 dated 27th October, 1999 that the teachers/ employees who were drawing pay in the scale of pay exceeding Rs. 1640—2900 (pre-revised) and Rs. 5500—9000 (revised) are not eligible for ad-hoc bonus. In other words, those who are placed in the revised pay-scale exceeding Rs. 5500—9000 irrespective of their pre-revised pay-scale are not entitled to ad-hoc bonus.

Outstanding dues of the Railways against Electricity Board's and Power Houses

999. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the outstanding dues of the Railways from various State Electricity Boards and Power Houses add upto a whopping amount of a few thousand crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the various agencies from whom the dues are outstanding and since when these dues started accumulating; and

(c) the efforts made so far by the Railway Administration to recover the dues, together with the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The total outstanding to end of December '99 is Rs. 1468/- crores.

(b) Details are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 30]. The dues accumulate as the Power Houses make only part payment of their dues, and this has been an onging process for the past several years.

(c) Some of the measures taken to recover dues and prevent further accretion are as follows:—

(1) In order to stop fresh accrual of outstanding dues against all State Electricity Boards/Power Houses, the cabinet took a decision on 13-8-96 that movement of coal would be on 'prepayment' basis only. The decision was implemented for all State Electricity Boards/Power Houses w.e.f. 1-10-96 and in case of Badarpur Thermal Power Station and Delhi Vidyut Board w.e.f. 1-1-97. This measure has helped to reduce outstandings of several Power Houses, except Badarpur Thermal Power Station, which is unable to meet its monthly freight bill and accounts for 68% of total outstanding against Power Houses as on 31-12-99.

(2) The matter regarding heavy outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards/Power Houses was brought to the notice of the Cabinet. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in its meeting held on 7.2.97 decided that the outstandings be adjusted by appropriation from Central Plan Assistance at the rate of 15% of the total outlay and distributed prorata to the Central Sector Undertakings who are owed money by Power Houses. This decision has helped Railways to realise Rs. 116.93 crores from Central Plan Assistance till December-1999.

(3) Meetings have been held with the officials of the concerned State Electricity Boards/Power Houses from time to time.

(4) Ministry of Railways has also approached Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance and Govt. of NCT, Delhi at various levels including that of Minister of Railways.

Railway Journey facility to Ex-M.L.As of M.P.

†1000. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has provided railway journey facility to ex-M.L.As through coupon system, after paying the Railway Board an advance amount of 2.5 crore rupees; if so, the reasons why the Railway Board has decided to discontinue this facility, while the State Government intend to continue the same; and

(b) whether the said facility would be restored to the ex-M.L.As before 1st April or whether another effective solution has been sought, to provide the railway journey facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Central Railway Administration had issued coupons worth Rs. 92 lakhs only for use by ex-M.L.As of Madhya Pradesh from 1996 till May 1999, without any policy decision to that effect by the Railway Ministry.

The scheme of rail travel coupons entails huge additional railway expenditure like printing of thousands of Coupon Books every year; making arrangements for their supply, realisation of dues, keeping accountal of coupons surrendered at stations all over Indian Railways, granting refund, etc. It has been decided by Railway Board that the scheme shall not be available to ex-Members of any State Legislature with effect from 1.4.2000.

(b) It is not propose to restore this facility. State

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.